

CLAIMS

1        1. An operator protection system for preventing the use of  
2 machinery unless an operator of said machinery is secured to said  
3 machinery with at least one lanyard to prevent said operator from  
4 falling to the ground from at least a portion of said machinery  
5 capable of being elevated with respect to the ground, said system  
6 comprising:

7                a lanyard connection detector for detecting proper  
8 attachment of said at least one lanyard intermediate said operator  
9 and said machinery; and

10               a lanyard interlock control for controlling a switch to  
11 selectively enable activation of said machinery when said at least  
12 one lanyard connection detector indicates that said at least one  
13 lanyard is properly attached intermediate said operator and said  
14 machinery.

1               2. The operator protection system of claim 1, wherein said  
2 machinery comprises an aerialift system.

3. The operator protection system of claim 2, wherein said  
aerialift system comprises a boom/basket system, including an  
operator basket suspended from a boom, said boom activated by a  
boom motor.

1           4.    The operator protection system of claim 1 further  
2    comprising an audio warning controller, an audio generator, and a  
3    speaker for providing audio alarm signals to said operator if said  
4    operator attempts to operate said machinery without a proper  
5    lanyard attachment.

1           5.    The operator protection system of claim 4, further  
2    comprising an alarm selection activator for selecting one of a  
3    plurality of warning messages to broadcast to said operator.

6.    An operator protection system for preventing the  
operation of an aerialift system unless an operator of said  
aerialift system is secured to said aerialift system with at least  
one lanyard to prevent said operator from falling to the ground  
from at least a portion of said aerialift system capable of being  
elevated with respect to the ground, said system comprising:

          a lanyard connection detector for detecting proper  
attachment of said at least one lanyard intermediate said operator  
and said aerialift system; and

          a lanyard interlock control for controlling a switch to  
selectively enable activation of said aerialift system when said  
at least one lanyard connection detector indicates that said at

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13 least one lanyard is properly attached intermediate said operator  
14 and said aerialift system.

1 7. A method of protecting a machinery operator from  
2 falling to the ground from at least a portion of said machinery  
3 that is capable of being elevated by preventing the use of said  
4 machinery unless said machinery operator is secured to said  
5 machinery with at least one safety lanyard, said method comprising  
6 the steps of:

7 detecting when said at least one safety lanyard is  
properly attached intermediate said machinery operator and said  
machinery; and

inhibiting operation of said machinery unless proper  
operator safety lanyard attachment is detected.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of  
providing an audible warning alarm if said operator attempts to  
use said machinery without proper safety lanyard attachment.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein said step of inhibiting  
2 operation of said machinery comprises interrupting power to said  
3 machinery.